

results which have been produced., the genius of conquest can only be regarded as the genius of destruction. What a sad picture was often- presented to my eyes! I was continually doomed to hear complaints of the general distress, and to execute orders which augmented the immense sacrifices already made by the city of Hamburg. Thus, for example, the Emperor desired me to furnish him with 50,000 cloaks, which I immediately did. I felt the importance of such an order at the approach of winter, and in a climate the rigor of which our troops had not yet encountered. I also received orders to seize at Ltibeck (which town, as I have already stated, had been alternately taken and retaken by Blucher and Bernadotte) 400,000 *lasts* of corn<sup>a</sup> and to send them to Magdeburg. This corn belonged to Eussia. Marshal Mortier, too, had seized some timber for building, which also belonged to Eussia, and which was estimated at 1,400,000 francs.

Meanwhile our troops continued to advance with such rapidity that before the end of November Murat arrived at Warsaw, at the head of the advanced guard of the Grand Army, of which he had the command. The Emperor's headquarters were then at Posen, and he received deputations from all parts soliciting the re-establishment and independence of the Kingdom of Poland. Eapp informed me that after receiving the deputation from Warsaw the Emperor said to 'him, "I love the Poles; their enthusiastic character pleases me; I should like to make them independent, but that is a difficult matter. Austria, Eussia, and Prussia have all had a slice of the cake; when the match is once kindled who knows where the conflagration may stop ? My first duty is towards France, which I must not sacrifice to Poland; we must refer this matter to the sovereign of all things — Time; he will presently show us what we must do." Had Sulkowsky lived Napoleon might have recollected what he had said to him in Egypt, and in all probability he would have raised up a power, the dismemberment of which, towards the close of the last century, began to overturn the political equilibrium which had subsisted in Europe since the peace of Westphalia in 1648.<sup>1</sup> A *last* weighs 2000 kilogrammes.